

# ENERGY TIDBITS

January 2005

**New Residential Energy Code** will become effective February 28, 2005. The revised Michigan Uniform Energy Code is based on Chapter 11 of the International Residential Code as amended by Michigan. Compliance can be demonstrated by meeting the requirements of the code, the International Energy Conservation Code, or the Energy Star Homes Program ® or by achieving a Home Energy Rating System (HERS) score of 83 or better. New code: <http://www.michigan.gov/cis/0,1607,7-154-10575---,00.html>.

**Zero Energy Home Design Competition Awards** will be presented at Lawrence Technological University on Thursday, January 13, 2005, 5:30-7:00 pm, at the Lear Auditorium, University Technology and Learning Center (<http://www.ltu.edu/contacts/>) Five students will make presentations on their designs and the competition winners will be announced. Public is invited.

**Net Metering** consensus proposal for Michigan's regulated utilities was filed by MPSC Staff and utilities on Friday, December 3, in Case No. U-14346. This case is e-filed. See <http://efile.mpsc.cis.state.mi.us/cgi-bin/efile/viewcase.pl?casenum=14346>.

**Detroit Edison Renewable Energy Program** was included in a recent MPSC order. The program will be available to all Edison customers on a voluntary basis and should be approximately 1% of the company's residential sales by the end of calendar year 2006. The company should expand the program to approximately 2%-3% of the company's residential sales by the end of calendar year 2008. The MPSC has directed Detroit Edison to undertake a survey by July 1, 2005 to inventory all available renewable resources and those that might be developed within the Detroit Edison service territory. The company shall file an application on or before July 1, 2005 to implement a program.

**42nd Annual R&D Magazine Top 100 Awards** included a ceramic-based electrochromic window, which can be electronically dimmed to control glare and heat gain in buildings and vehicles, an electrochromic window prototype using lower-cost metals such as nickel and manganese, a process to create brighter, more efficient light-emitting diodes (LEDs), a high-efficiency air conditioner developed by Idalex Technologies, and a low-cost, high-temperature fuel cell membrane developed by Virginia Tech and Battelle. See all 100 winners at <http://www.rdmag.com/>

**Energy Efficient Mortgages** which allow borrowers to qualify for more financing to include costs of energy-related home improvements have been making the news in the Lansing area. Go to <http://www.energyefficientmortgages.com/news.htm#lsj121204> for more specifics.

**Variable Speed Pumping** A Guide to Successful Applications is the result of a collaboration between the Hydraulic Institute, Europump, and the U.S. DOE Industrial Technologies Program. It describes the cost and energy savings potential of pumping applications with variable duty requirements. <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy04osti/36074.pdf>

**Wind Energy Potential in Michigan** has been estimated to be 16,560 MW by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory. The estimate is for class 3 and 4 areas and is based on the new wind maps which can be viewed at <http://www.michigan.gov/eorenew>

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**Larger Wind Turbines** used to be needed to have a true grid tie system with no batteries. Now two companies, Southwest Windpower and African Windpower have grid tie capabilities at the 1 kW size. (John Wakeman)

**2005 DTE Energy Conference and Expo** will be held at Laurel Manor in Livonia on February 15. Additional information will be available at <http://www.mydteenergy.com> in the near future.

**Ford Motor** celebrated the production of a new Focus Fuel Cell Vehicle (FCV), the first in a fleet of high-tech Focus FCVs that will be deployed in Orlando, Fla., Sacramento, Calif., Taylor, Mich., Berlin, Germany and Vancouver, B.C. The Ford Focus FCV uses a fuel cell powertrain supplied by Ballard Power Systems, a nickel metal-hydride battery pack and a brake-by-wire electro-hydraulic series regenerative braking system.

**Kyoto Protocol** officially starts on February 16, 2005. Ratification by Russia put the treaty into effect. Only four industrialized countries now remain outside the treaty: U.S., Australia, Liechtenstein, and Monaco.

**First Green Power Co-op** will provide a return on investment of 4% to 8% each year for its members who helped fund a Cdn\$1.7 million wind turbine in downtown Toronto. WindShare will distribute \$1.2 million in dividends to its 427 members over 20 years, and has raised \$260,000 from co-op investors towards construction of a second turbine.

**Pierce Cedar Creek Institute's Third Annual Renewable Energy Conference** will be held on Saturday, January 22, 8:30 am - 4 pm. The conference is geared to home and business owners interested in making their facilities more energy efficient and to those interested in renewable energy. Registration is only \$30 for adults and \$15 for students. Call 269-721-4190 or visit <http://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org>.

**Community Colleges** interested in teaching about energy efficiency and renewable energies can access free information from PETE, a national consortium of community colleges and ATEEC, a National Science Foundation center. For more information, go to <http://www.ateec.org/energy>. The site also has free powerpoints on renewable energies from the U.S. National Renewable Energy Lab.



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